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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 126 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/51/502.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 56th, 57th and 70th meetings, on 12 and 13 May and 6 June 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.56, 57 and 70).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/51/763 and Add.1) and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/847).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.59

4. At the 70th meeting, on 6 June, the representative of Zimbabwe introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/51/L.59), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. The representative of Zimbabwe orally revised the draft resolution by inserting two additional paragraphs after operative paragraph 7, reading:

"8. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 449,850 dollars approved for the period from 1 July to 30 September 1997;

"9. Decides further to appropriate the amount of 22,672,350 dollars gross (21,322,800 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 October 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of the amount of 841,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be assessed on Member States at a monthly rate of 2,519,150 dollars gross (2,369,200 dollars net) in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 30 September 1997"

and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.59, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1108 (1997) of 22 May 1997,

Recalling also its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission, and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 51/2 of 17 October 1996,

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[1] A/51/763 and Add.1.

[2] A/51/847.

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Mission on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 13 May 1997, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 40,805,574 United States dollars, representing 16 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 30 November 1996, notes that some 30 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Decides to appropriate and apportion to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 7,557,450 dollars gross (7,107,600 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 30 September 1997, inclusive of the amount of 280,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and 1998;[3]

8. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 449,850 dollars approved for the period from 1 July to 30 September 1997;

9. Decides further to appropriate the amount of 22,672,350 dollars gross (21,322,800 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 October 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of the amount of 841,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be assessed on Member States at a monthly rate of 2,519,150 dollars gross (2,369,200 dollars net) in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 30 September 1997;

10. Decides that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,349,550 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 October 1997 to 30 June 1998;

11. Decides also that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission for the period ending 30 November 1996, there shall be set off against the assessment for the period beyond 30 November 1996 their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 19,392,900 dollars gross (16,687,100 dollars net) in respect of the period ending 30 June 1996;

12. Decides further that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of

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[3] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

19,392,900 dollars gross (16,687,100 dollars net) for the period ending 30 June 1996 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".